The supply of 24 interceptor boats, specified above, will be as per schedule finalized with manufacturers/suppliers, commencing April, 2009.

Financial assistance under the scheme is extended on the basis of physical progress achieved and utilization certificates furnished.

On-ground implementation is the responsibility of coastal States/Union Territories concerned and Ministry of Home Affairs, through periodic reviews of progress, seeks to facilitate expeditious implementation in all possible ways.

Grave security lapse in Mumbai attack

*236. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has faced first ever terrorist war in the shape of recent Mumbai attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there has been a grave security lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A series of terrorist attacks involving indiscriminate firing, throwing of grenades and bomb blasts at 13 locations, including Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Leopold Caf□, Taj Hotel, Oberoi-Trident Hotel and a building called 'Nariman House', took place in Mumbai in November, 2008. 10 Pakistani nationals belonging to the Lashkar-e-Toiba, a proscribed terrorist outfit, had left Karachi on November 23, 2008; boarded a launch by the name of *Al-Hussaini*; accosted and hijacked an Indian fishing vessel, *M.V. Kuber*, off the coast of Gujarat; killed Its occupants; and a few miles short of the coast of Mumbai abandoned the fishing vessel, got into an Inflatable rubber dinghy, and landed near Budhwar Park, Colaba, Mumbai between 8.00 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. on November 26, 2008. The terrorist incidents are under investigations by the State police.

(c) As soon as Information of firing at different locations was received, the State Government immediately deployed Police parties and senior officers also rushed to some of the locations. In one such encounter between police and terrorists, 3 police personel and 3 officers of the State police lost their lives, one terrorist was killed and one was captured alive. At the request of the State Government, 5 columns of the army were also deployed to cordon off the affected areas and the Navy deployed their Commandos. Meanwhile, at about 11.30 p.m., the Government of Maharashtra asked for National Security Guard (NSG). The Central Government Immediately alerted and mobilized the NSG Units based at Manesar in Haryana. A group of 200 men (which was re-informed the next day) was airlifted late that night to Mumbai and deployed at various sites of operation in the early hours of November 27, 2008. In subsequent operations the security forces were able to neutralize all the terrorists and rescued hundreds of persons who had been trapped In the buildings. The operation came to an end at about 8.20 a.m. on November 29, 2008. Notwithstanding the above actions, questions have been raised in respect of issues pertaining to availability and sharing of intelligence and response thereto; time taken for

deployment of NSG and gaps in maritime and coastal security arrangements. All these aspects have been reviewed in detail and further measures are underway to strengthening and supplement the existing arrangements in all these spheres, apart from steps for further strengthening the legal framework and other mechanisms for dealing with terrorism.

Decline in export growth

*237. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export growth has considerably gone down in recent months following weak demand and slow down in global economy;

(b) if so, the exports during the last six months, month-wise, compared to the corresponding months in the preceding three years; and

(c) the drift in the rupee value *vis-à-vis* dollar during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The growth in exports has decelerated during the months of September and October, 2008 due to weak demand and slow-down in the global economy.

(b) The exports during the last six months, month-wise, as compared to the corresponding months of the preceding three years are as under:—

Month-wise Exports in US $ billion

Months	2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*	2008-09
May	7.98	10.11	12.46	15.58
June	7.89	10.42	12.10	16.79
July	7.49	10.60	12.51	16.88
August	8.57	10.77	12.64	16.00
September	8.46	10.76	12.52	13.75
October	8.62	9.93	14.67	12.82

Source : DGCI and S, Kolkata; Note: *Including late receipt data

(c) The movement of Exchange rate of Rupee *vis-à-vis* US Dollar during the period is given below:—

Exchange rate of Rupee vis-à-vis US Dollar during 2008-09

Months	Rs. per US $
1	2
May	42.1250
June	42.8202